Gunnery Department

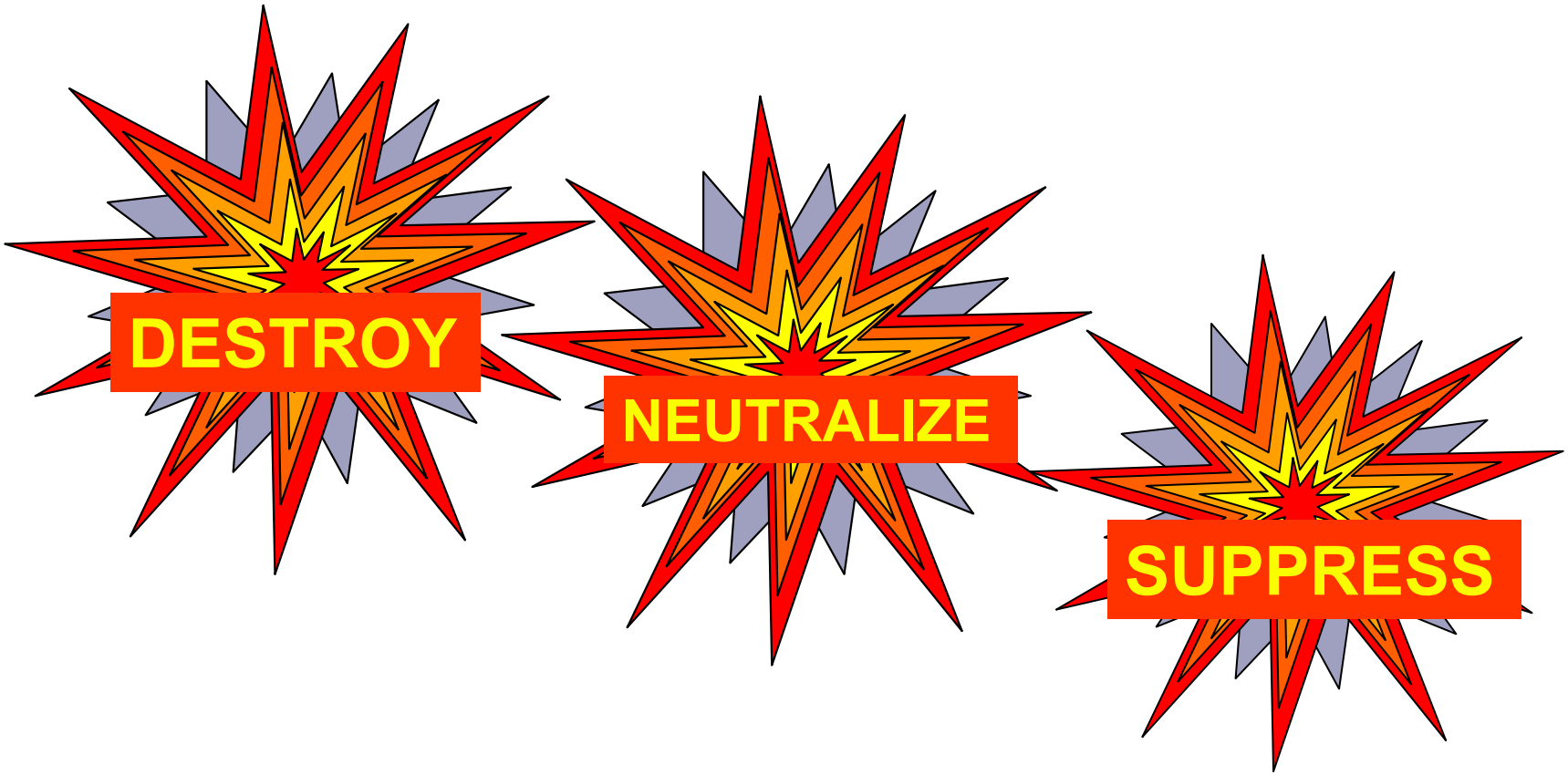
MLRS Division

"Standards Start Here"

Field Artillery Officer Basic Course

MLRS RSOP

The Mission of the Field Artillery is to…



the enemy by cannon, ROCKET and MISSILE fire and to help integrate al fire support assets into combined arms operations.

Learning Activities

1. Identify RSOP General Considerations
2. Identify METT-TC Requirements for RSOP
3. Identify methods for Reconnaissance
4. Identify methods for Selection
5. Identify requirements for Occupation of Position

RSOP Considerations

Considerations

- Conduct operations under battery control
- Occupy separate OPAREA
- OPAREA size generally 3km x 3km
- Platoon Leader conducts his own RSOP

Considerations

- 3km x 3km OPAREA (exact size is a function of METT-T)
- OPAREA can be used by other units
- Face to face coordination may be required
- Six Position types within an OPAREA

METT-TC

METT-TC

Mission

Enemy

Terrain

Troops Available

Time Available

Civilian Considerations

METT-TC

Mission

- Governing factor in planning RSOP
- What is our unit's purpose?
- What is commander's intent?
- Determine movement plan that best supports needs of maneuver

METT-TC

Enemy

- Strengths
- Status of Training
- Disposition
- Location
- Doctrine
- Capabilities
- Equipment

METT-TC

- Enemy offensive increases MLRS fires
- Enemy radar / counter fire threat increases distance / frequency of movements
- Enemy rear operations increases ground threat to moving units

METT-TC

Terrain and Weather

- OCOKA
- Analyze routes
- Estimate time and distance of move
- Effects of weather on terrain, visibility and trafficability

METT-TC

Troops

- Adjust plan to accomplish mission based on unit strength
- Fatigue, training, and morale
- Attachments and Detachments

METT-TC

Time Available

- Critical times of operation
  - Offense: Lead unit crosses LD/LC
  - Defense: NLT to defend time
- Movement times to position areas

METT-TC

Civilian Considerations

- Rules of Engagement
- Local Culture, Politics, Economics
- Factions, Weapons

RECONNAISSANCE

SELECTION AND OCCUPATION OF POSITION

Reconnaissance

- Map
- Air
- Ground

Reconnaissance

Map: Preliminary to ground or air recon

- Advantages:
  - Fastest Method
  - Eliminates unsuitable routes
- Disadvantages:
  - Cannot determine terrain conditions
  - Other units and enemy may be in AO

Reconnaissance

Air: Used in conjunction with map and ground

- Advantages:
  - Valuable information gained
  - Faster than ground recons
- Disadvantages:
  - Resources not readily available
  - Inaccurate picture of surface conditions

Reconnaissance

Ground: Most effective type of recon

- Advantages:

  Can physically examine routes and positions

- Disadvantages:

  Slowest type of recon

Reconnaissance

Generally consist of:

- Hasty map reconnaissance

  followed by deliberate ground reconnaissance

Reconnaissance

- Platoon Leader
- Recon Sergeant
- Optional Members / Vehicles
  - FDC Specialist
  - Launcher
  - HEMTT/HEMAT

Considerations

- Existing routes and characteristics
- Bridges
- Fording, ferrying or swimming sites
- Tunnels and underpasses
- Obstacles--NBC, roadblocks, minefields
- Drainage
- Natural or man-made features

FM 5-36, p. 2-2

OPAREA Considerations

- Communications with the BOC
- Open areas for Firing Points
- Defensibility/Dispersion of positions
- Trafficability within OPAREA
- Existing survey and road network
- Terrain Masking
- No major features interfering with OPAREA (i.e. river, highway)

Survey Control

- Coordinate with BOC for survey priority
- Emplace SCPs along route, every 6-8 km if you must maintain firing capability
- Position stake on left side of road
- Survey Control:
  - Primary -- PADS
  - Secondary -- PLGR

Alternate methods of survey

- Adjacent unit SCPs in OPAREA
- Adjacent unit SCPs outside the OPAREA
- Use launcher's SRP/PDS
- Use hasty survey (i.e. graphic resection)
- Use map spot

RECONNAISSANCE SELECTION AND OCCUPATION OF POSITION

Selection

- The Firing Area and Firing Point
- The Hide Area
- The Reload Point
- The Survey Control Point
- The Platoon Headquarters
- The Ammunition Holding Area

Firing Points

- 9 FPs per OPAREA / 3 per Launcher
- Section Chief selects firing point within 150m of reconned grid
- Communications with POC and BOC
- No immediate masks in direction of fire

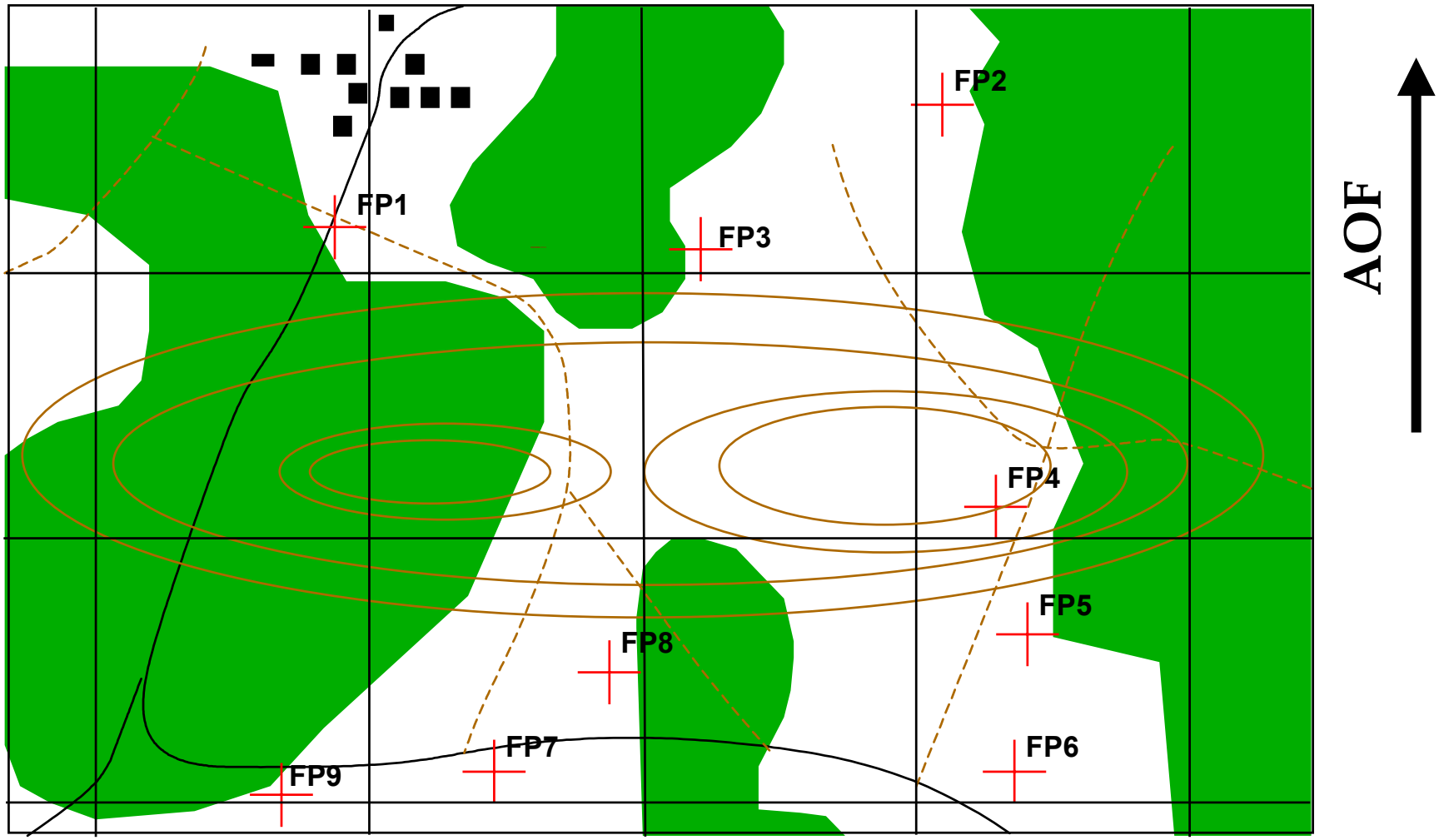
Firing Points

- Used as launch point for fire missions
- Should be 500m from other FPs (800m preferred)
- Should be 800m from any other position type or element
- Firing Point and Hide Area can be same

Hide Area

- Used to conceal launcher while waiting for fire mission
- Section Chief selects Hide Areas
- Covered and concealed position within 100 meters of the firing point (wood line)

Firing Points and Hide Areas



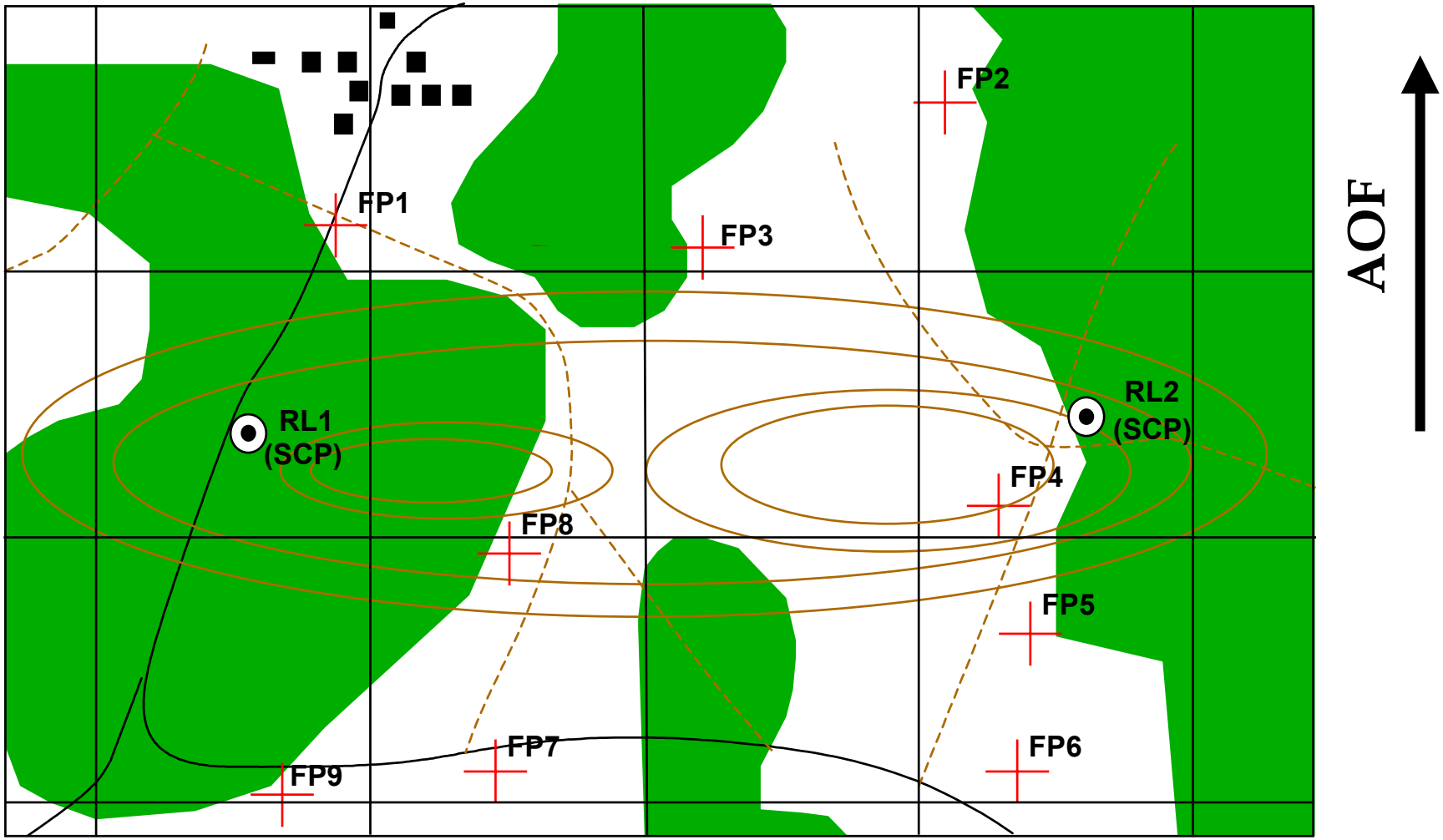
Reload Points

- Used to upload launchers with ammo
- At least 2 RLs in each OPAREA
- Room to maneuver HEMTT - HEMAT
- Firm, level ground
- Concealment for HEMTT nearby
- At least 800 meters from firing points and at least 500 meters from all other positions.

Survey Control Points

- Used to update launcher PDS
- Minimum of 2 in each OPAREA
- Normally located with reload points
- Other possible locations for SCP
- At the Release Point
- At a launcher Firing Point / Hide Area

Reload Points and SCPs



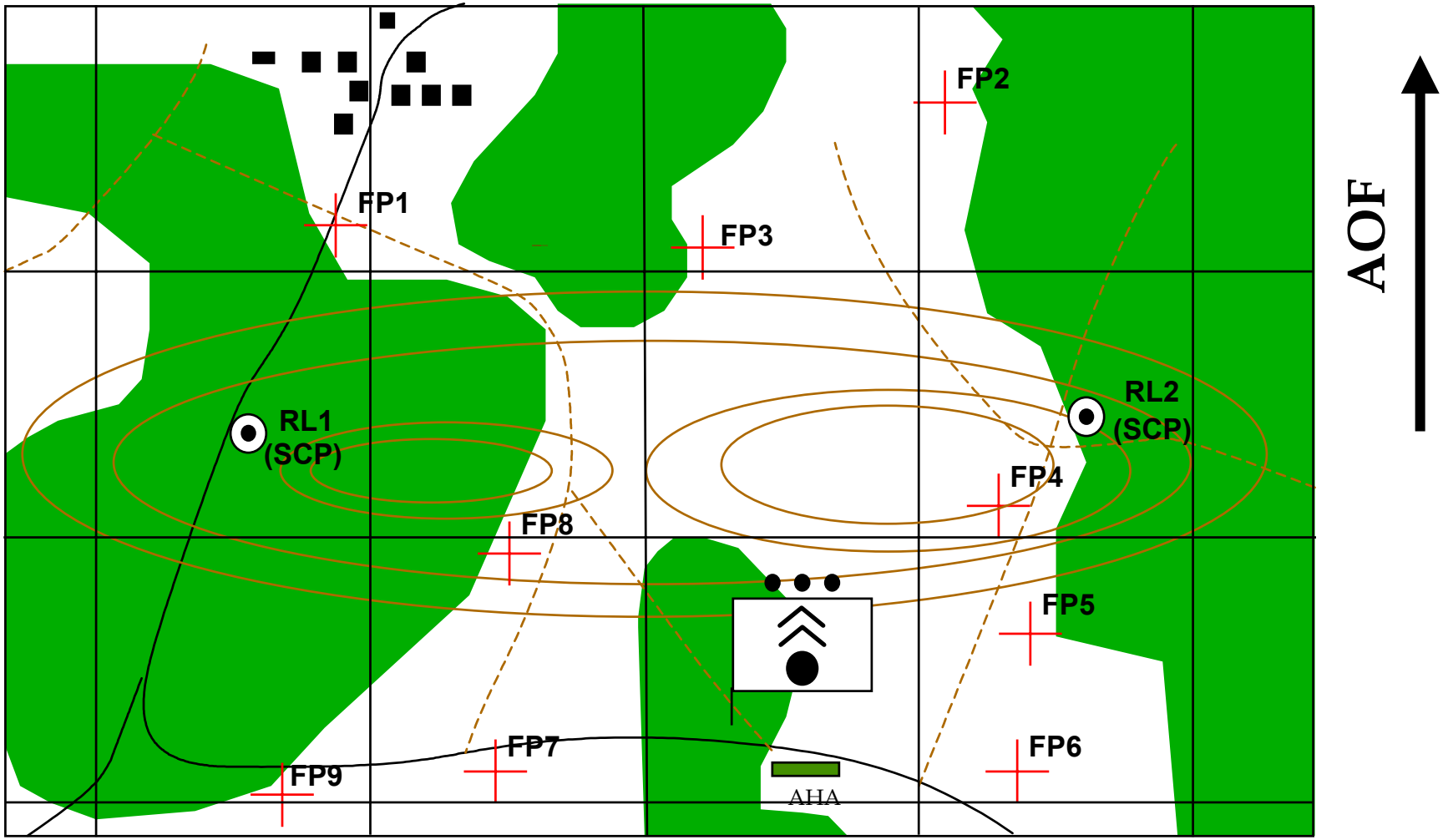
POC Location

- Used to Command and Control Platoon
- Find primary and alternate POC location
- Communications with BOC and SPLLs
- Cover and concealment
- Communications mask between position and enemy
- Trafficability

Ammunition Holding Area

- Used to position HEMTTs waiting to download ammunition
- Cover and concealment
- Trafficability -- Proximity to the MSR
- Can be positioned 100 - 300 m from POC
- Defensibility with POC

Firing Platoon Operational Area



RECONNAISSANCE SELECTION AND OCCUPATION OF POSITION

Occupation of Position

Platoon needs little position preparation

- Platoon Leader awaits platoon at RP
- Platoon Sergeant leads main body

- At Release Point, Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant conduct “The Swap”

Occupation of Position

- Platoon Leader
  - Jumps in PLT SGT's HMMWV
  - Directs launchers to firing areas
  - Leads HEMTTs to reload points
- Platoon Sergeant
  - Jumps in PLT LDR's HMMWV
  - Leads FDC to POC position
  - Leads remaining HEMTTs to AHA

Occupation of Position

- Ensure launchers reload ammo
- Ensure launchers update PDS
- Ensure launchers realign SRP
- Distribute OPAREA data
- Brief all sections on OPAREA
- Immediately obtain firing capability
- Establish perimeter defense

Perimeter Defense Considerations

- Established by Platoon Sergeant
- Coordinate with other units in OPAREA
- Use claymore mines and trip flares
- Provide sections with rendezvous grids
- Emplace M2/M19/SAW on avenue of approach
- Dismount one man in launcher hide areas

Summary

- OPAREA Considerations
- METT-TC
- Reconnaissance
- Selection
- Occupation

Gunnery Department

MLRS Division

"Standards Start Here"